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United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

TOBACCO SEED.

BRAZILIAN.

DEC 1 - 1910  
RECEIVED

In response to a constant demand during the past two or three years from Kentucky and Tennessee for Brazilian tobacco seed, the Department has made every effort to secure a supply of seed. It has at last been able to get a few pounds, which is being distributed to reliable applicants. It seems proper in this connection to call the attention of the recipients of this seed to the opinion expressed by the man from whom the seed was received. He is a tobacco grower of long experience in Brazil, and it would appear from what he writes that no special attention is paid to the selection of seed, but that the different trade names of tobaccos, taken as they are from the locality in which the tobacco is grown, have no reference to the variety of tobacco as such. If there is any difference in the types of tobacco grown it is probably due to soil and climatic conditions, certainly not to any difference in the seed. Such portions of the letter of Mr. Waddell, who furnished the seed, as seem pertinent to this subject are appended, as follows:

"With the exception of some recently imported varieties which, owing to the lack of intelligent care, are always getting more and more crossed, there are no 'varieties' of tobacco seed in this region.

"Tobacco is classed by the name of the place where the type is supposed to be most common, but the varieties are due to soil, climate, weather, and mode of cultivation, not at all to seed. Some years, for instance, a locality giving the name to a variety will not produce an appreciable quantity of that variety, owing to a rainy or dry season or some similar cause. Seed is seed. Nobody asks where it comes from. It is carried from place to place by 'patch croppers' and others. No care as to purity is taken anywhere. Since I have been here every important tobacco district has lost all of its crop and seed at least once because of drought or other causes, and has renewed its plantations with surplus seed from all around. The reason we had bother in securing this lot of seed and only secured a part of the quantity in time was that this district has only about one-quarter of its supply of seed just now, owing to bad weather at the end of last crop, and is buying from all sides.

"I know that a bag of seed divided between Cavao, Corte Mao, and Concei-cas da Feira gave three 'varieties' of tobacco, the varieties characteristic of the zones represented."



